Operating Ratio in Railways

1166. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have achieved higher savings in working expenses during 2001-02, better than projections contained in Bugdet Estimates and Revised Estimates;

(b) whether the operating ratio has also improved during the year and if so, to what extent;

(c) whether the budgetary allocation for Special Safety Fund has been enhanced; and

(d) whether the Railways are in a position to repay the borrowings from the public exchequer and if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Operating Ratio of the Railways, for the year 2001-02, budgeted at 98.8% in the Budget Estimates (BE) and 96.6 in the Revised Estimates (BE) stands at 96.0% in the Actuals (provisional).

(c) The Contribution to the Special Railway Safety Fund has been enhanced in 2001-02 from Rs. 1400 cr. in RE to Rs. 1453 cr. in Actuals (provisional).

(d) The Railways have repaid in full the loan of Rs. 249 cr. taken from the General Exchequer in 2000-01, along with interest thereon, in 2001-02.

Representation from passenger association

†1167. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received an representation from Kadhi Passenger Association, Kadhi, District Mehsana, Gujarat in May, 2002 with regard to trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) what action Government proposed to take on the said representation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A letter dated 7.5.2002 from Shri Chandrakant J. Patel, Hon. Secretary, Kadhi Passengers' Association, Khadi District Mehesana has been received for introduction of a MG train between Kadhi and Ahmedabad and regular checking in trains running from Kadhi to Katosan Road, Bechraji, Chanasma and Ranuj.

(c) Introduction of a train between Kadhi and Ahmedabad has been examined but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

Instruction have been issued for conducting regular checks in trains running from Kadhi to Katosan Road, Bechraji, Chanasma and Ranuj.

Impact of reduction in rail fare

1168. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of steep cut in fares by Indian Airlines and other airlines, the Railways have decided to reduce fares at certain routes and for certain classes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the reduction in rail fares would have an impact on any other Railways projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.